



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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March 12, 2003

TO: Members of the Washington State Board of Health

FROM: Tom Locke, Board Member

RE: REVIEW OF STATUTES AND RULES ON BLOOD-BORNE PATHOGENS

Background and Summary

In December, the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) transmitted a resolution to the Board (attached) requesting that the Board and the Department of Health (DOH) “consider a process to update policies, rules, and/or regulations concerning HIV/AIDS and other blood borne infections to reflect advances in the science of disease prevention and current best public health practices.” The Board agreed that it would honor the request and I volunteered to serve as Board sponsor. Chair Lake asked me to report back at this meeting.

WSBOH Executive Director Don Sloma assigned Policy Manager Craig McLaughlin as lead staff. Mr. McLaughlin initiated conversations with Department of Health (DOH) staff about coordinating SBOH and DOH activities in this area. He also began attending meetings of the Governor’s Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS and the AIDSNET Council. The conversations between DOH and SBOH staff produced a draft document outlining a possible initial process.

On January 10, Mr. McLaughlin and I participated in a conference call at the request of Dr. Karen Steingart, a member of the AIDSNET Council. Dr. Steingart has been developing a series of seven “white pages”—short position papers describing AIDSNET Council issues about current laws and regulations from the specific perspective of public health. (See attached drafts.) The participants discussed ways to proceed with a broader, more public, and more participatory review. In particular, we discussed next steps for the white pages and reviewed the draft process proposal.

A copy of the process document is attached and contains the initial elements of a work plan—including a commitment to run the process through stakeholder and an initial strategy of try to sort identified issues according to the degree of controversy and whether statutory changes are required.

Recommended Board Action

I recommend the Board consider the following motion:

The Board approves ongoing work on the review of HIV/AIDS policies, RCWs, and WACs as outlined in “Tackling HIV Policy Issues: A Proposed Process.”

Attachments